

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH
INVASION OF CYPRUS**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 29th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemorate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people.

On the 29th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus, we solemnly remember the victims of the invasion. The invasion claimed 5,000 Cypriot lives, displaced 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, and has created one of the most militarized areas in the world, with 40,000 Turkish troops continuing to occupy the island. The invasion also created hatred between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots that poisoned the way they thought of each other for years.

While we mourn the tragic losses of the past 29 years, we are also able to celebrate the future of a Cyprus integrated into the European Union. This is an historic year for Cyprus, and I would like to commend Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot people for their commitment and determination in reaching a settlement on the reunification of the island and especially membership in the European Union. On April 16, 2003, Cyprus signed the Accession Treaty to the European Union and will now have a host of new opportunities open to its people. Just this week, the Wall Street Journal ran an article describing the emotional meetings of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots going back to their former villages, and their realization that the hatred melted away once they met and spoke with people on the other side. If this is truly the case, then there is hope for a peaceful future.

Nevertheless, it is the obligation of the U.S. Congress to condemn the violence that separated the island nation of Cyprus, and to encourage Turkish Cypriot leaders as needed to negotiate in good faith with their Greek Cypriot counterparts to settle this dispute. The reunification of the island nation is a priority for this Congress and the international community. On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we mourn the deaths of those killed in the invasion and the lost opportunities over the years, and we look forward to a future of a reunited Cyprus in the European Union.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
CMDR. KEVIN A. BIANCHI**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. Kevin A. Bianchi, 40, was among three members of a Navy helicopter crew confirmed dead in a crash in Sicily on July 16, 2003. The fact that his older brother, Robert, a Navy helicopter pilot, was killed in a crash in the Philippines in 1986, adds to the enormous grief that his family now feels.

Kevin Bianchi came from a proud family tradition of Navy servicemen. Two of his three brothers served honorably with Kevin in the

Navy. Indeed, Kevin himself graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in May 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Science. He led fellow servicemen as captain of the Navy Wrestling team, and was commissioned and assigned to the Naval Academy staff as an Assistant Physical Education Instructor and Assistant Wrestling Coach. In June 1991, Cmdr. Bianchi reported to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California where he earned a Masters of Science degree in Information Systems Technology Management. Finally, in March 2001, he went to Newport, Rhode Island to attend the College of Naval Command and Staff at the United States Naval War College where he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His glittering academic career was mirrored by his successful service record. He served with honor on the Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet in Virginia, and was promoted to the position of Air Operations Officer of the Pacific Fleet in San Diego, California. He was decorated on countless occasions in recognition of his service success. In addition to various service awards, Cmdr. Bianchi earned an Air Medal and Navy Commendation and Achievement Medals.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives are inspired, as I am, by Cmdr. Bianchi's remarkable patriotism and exceptional valor. He was proud to serve his country, and refused to give up his career even after his family had been struck by tragedy. That Cmdr. Bianchi continued to put his life at risk on a regular basis, even after the loss of his brother in 1986, is proof of his unassailable courage and dedication. Let us join in extending our condolences to Cmdr. Bianchi's parents, who have now lost two sons in service to our Nation. Our thoughts and prayers will be with his loving wife Rita Barrie, and their three children, Kevin, Christopher and Julia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I was unavoidably detained due to a U.S. Airways plane malfunction and missed rollcall vote No. 357, the Ackerman-LaTourette amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill which would require that the USDA expend no funds to approve meat from downed animals—animals that are too sick to walk or stand—for food. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND
RESPONSE ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Community Protection and Response Act of 2003 to eliminate confusion in terrorist prevention and response.

One of the major lessons learned in the aftermath of the September 11th, attacks is

that timely response is critical. Any delay complicates short-, medium-, and long-term recovery efforts. Sadly, many of the lessons that we have learned have gone without an appropriate response. For example, the Washington Post reported on June 4, 2003, that the United States remains highly vulnerable to a chemical terrorist attack, in large part because the Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency still have not decided which agency would spearhead chemical testing. Clearly now is the time to learn from our past and prepare for the future. The Community Protection and Response Act does just that.

In response to the attacks of September 11th, Congress took a series of actions to bring relief to affected areas. These legislative actions along with existing statutes, including the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, formed the framework for the federal government's response. The magnitude of the attacks and the need for Congress to take action before certain relief could be delivered added to the challenge of the recovery efforts and exposed critical weaknesses in federal authority to respond.

The Community Protection and Response Act would amend the Stafford Act along with other statutes and would give the President a series of policy options to choose from following a homeland security event. A homeland security event is defined as an event that poses a significant risk to the security of people and property and is in such a magnitude that effective response is beyond the scope and capability of the affected state and local government. Many of these options are based on congressional action following September 11th or other policy suggestions in reports by the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office and the New York branch of the Federal Reserve. Specifically, in the event of homeland security event, the President can provide grants for lost tax revenue, aid to school systems, and assistance to medical facilities and utility companies. The bill also establishes guidelines to ensure the public health of area residents and disaster workers.

This legislation was introduced in the 107th Congress (H.R. 5164) and was offered as an amendment to the Bill that created the Department of Homeland Security. While the Committee on Government Reform passed the amendment by a unanimous vote, it was stripped out before floor consideration.

IN RECOGNITION OF JETT WIL-
LIAMS, THE DAUGHTER OF HANK
WILLIAMS**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jett Williams, the daughter of the legendary Hank Williams, for her outstanding professional achievements.

Jett Williams was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on January 6, 1953, five days after the death of her father, Hank Williams. She was adopted by her grandmother, Lillian Williams. When Ms. Williams passed away in 1954, Jett was adopted by a family living in Mobile, Alabama. It was not until adulthood that she